



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 31 December 2008

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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- The Transportation Security Administration announced Monday the completion of over one million fingerprint-based background checks on truck drivers required to carry a Hazardous Material Endorsement on a commercial driver's license. (See item [9](#))
- According to the Associated Press, two state office buildings in Springfield, Illinois, were locked down Monday after a letter addressed to the U.S. President-elect was found to contain a suspicious powder. (See item [15](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Nuclear Reactors](#), [Materials and Waste](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#); [Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#); [Information Technology](#); [Communications](#); [Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities](#); [Emergency Services](#); [National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical**: ELEVATED, **Cyber**: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *December 29, Coast Guard News* – (New York) **Ship rams pier at fuel containment facility.** The Coast Guard is investigating a collision between a ship and a pier at a fuel containment facility in Rensselaer, New York, that occurred at approximately 12:30 p.m. yesterday. There were no reports of injuries or pollution. The Sanko Phoenix, a 622-foot Liberian flagged bulk carrier, reportedly collided with the pier at the Ghetty fuel containment facility, causing significant damage. “The most important part of a case like this is that there were no injuries to the crews of the vessel or the facility and no pollution,” said a command duty officer at Coast Guard Sector New York. Source: <http://coastguardnews.com/ship-rams-pier-at-fuel-containment->

[facility/2008/12/29/](#)

2. *December 29, Coast Guard News* – (Massachusetts) **Liquefied natural gas carrier Suez Matthew cleared for service.** The Suez Matthew moored in Everett, Massachusetts, after the captain of the port lifted a detention order placed on the liquefied natural gas (LNG) tanker when it temporarily lost propulsion east of Provincetown, Massachusetts, late Saturday. At 11 p.m. Sunday, the captain of the Port of Boston reviewed and approved the final repair certification presented by Lloyd's Register, an internationally recognized classification society, and the ship's owner, Hoegh Fleet Services, signaled approval for the LNG tanker to re-enter international service. "There was a comprehensive analysis of every system on board the ship as well as the crew's procedures in response to the power loss," said the acting commander of Coast Guard Sector Boston, in charge of the response. After several hours of troubleshooting, repair specialists determined that a malfunctioning control valve had partially stuck in an open position, causing back pressure and subsequent failure of the turbo charger.

Source: <http://coastguardnews.com/liquefied-natural-gas-carrier-suez-matthew-cleared-for-service/2008/12/29/>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry Sector

3. *December 30, Cincinnati Enquirer* – (National) **U.S. lets chlorine rail through city.** Thousands of gallons of potentially toxic chlorine are shipped each week through the heart of Greater Cincinnati, Ohio, and Northern Kentucky, passing within yards of neighborhoods and just a few miles from downtown Cincinnati. Now, a new federal rule says the rail shipments can continue — even though a possible alternative cuts 300 miles in travel time, avoids two major cities, and is the preferred route of the chlorine manufacturer. This summer, the Federal Railroad Administration did not require railroads to consider alternative routes on competing rail lines when setting hazardous materials routes through America's cities and towns. Cleveland, Ohio, officials formally appealed the rule Monday. They had fought unsuccessfully for greater influence over where hazardous materials are shipped. Critics of the new rules say they do not go far enough in setting standards or oversight of how railroads determine safe routes.

Source: <http://news.cincinnati.com/article/20081230/NEWS01/812300321>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

4. *December 30, Reuters* – (Illinois) **Exelon Ill. Braidwood 2 reactor up to 63 pct power.** Exelon Corp's 1,178-megawatt Unit 2 at the Braidwood nuclear power station in Illinois climbed to 63 percent of capacity early on December 30, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said in its daily plant status report. On December 29, the unit was operating at seven percent power after a weekend outage. Exelon said the unit tripped the afternoon of December 27, following an electrical fault on the nonnuclear

side of the plant that caused a transformer to trip.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN3032251120081230>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

5. *December 30, Bank Technology News* – (International) **Banks beef up the locks.** It has been more than a year since Bank of America introduced SafePass, the out-of-band authentication process that sends a one-time password via SMS to online banking customers to secure high-risk transactions. Recently following suit was PayPal, which announced its use of VeriSign's SMS feature late last year. But analysts, vendors, and CIOs alike say that many U.S. banks are now taking another look at their online authentication technology, and increasingly adding layers that involve out-of-band techniques and stronger fraud-detection engines. "There's definitely a feeling that more is needed," says an Internet security specialist at BearingPoint on assignment at Lloyds TSB in the United Kingdom. VeriSign, Entrust, and Vasco report a marked increase in banks looking at adding new layers to their authentication front door. Vasco says its customers are looking to move away from second-factor authentication that relies on static information "because they are still experiencing fraud," says a company business development manager. Given that online fraud is occurring, there is clearly a practical need to install robust security measures, but there is also a psychological need. Consumers continue to cite security as the main reason they do not bank online, and consumer adoption is holding steady at about 35 percent, according to Javelin Strategy & Research.

Source: http://www.americanbanker.com/btn_article.html?id=20081223R9RQK487

6. *December 30, Digital Transactions News* – (International) **Fraudsters run one-stop shop online to sell data-stealing code.** Online fraudsters are running an online trading post for highly sophisticated code that allows criminals to more easily steal consumers' log-on credentials, Social Security Numbers, PINs, and other confidential information, according to the latest report from RSA Security Inc.'s Anti-Fraud Command Center. The fraudster Web site, which RSA analysts call a "Web Injection Shop," sells so-called HTML injections, or bits of code that can allow phishing perpetrators to mimic the look of a financial institution's Web pages, including pages that ask for log-on credentials. The code also allows fraudsters to add fields to the pages to ask for information the legitimate pages do not ask for. The injections usually accompany Trojans, code that fraudsters install on the computers of unwary users when they visit certain sites or click on unknown e-mail links. While these HTML injections are nothing new, the creation of

what RSA calls a “production-scale central repository” for them is. Indeed, the sophistication of the code and of its merchandising online has led the Bedford, Massachusetts-based security firm, part of EMC Corp., to call the trend “fraud as a service,” or FaaS, after the more familiar and legitimate trend toward software as a service (SaaS), in which companies sell solutions for specific online functions.

Source: <http://www.digitaltransactions.net/newsstory.cfm?newsid=2035>

7. *December 29, Jackson Hole Star Tribune* – (Wyoming) **Regulators cite Wyo bank.** Thermopolis-based Bank of Wyoming was issued a cease-and-desist order on October 17 by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. and the Wyoming Division of Banking. The two agencies cooperate in regulating 26 state-chartered banks in Wyoming. The order was issued after the agencies “determined that they had reason to believe that the bank had engaged in unsafe or unsound banking practices.” The bank consented to the order without admitting or denying the allegations, which include that it had been operating with inadequate management supervision; inadequate capital and loan valuation reserve; a large volume of poor-quality loans; unsatisfactory lending and collection policies, and inadequate provisions for liquidity. The order also alleges that the bank did not comply with federal regulations regarding real estate lending and property appraisals. It mandates a number of corrective actions, including retaining qualified management, reviewing officer and employee compensation, and forming a management committee to address each of the concerns outlined in the order.

Source:

<http://www.jacksonholestartrib.com/articles/2008/12/29/news/wyoming/7cddb98a2bde43988725752f0001ca09.txt>

8. *December 29, Sacramento Business Journal* – (California) **FDIC issues tough order against Community Bank of San Joaquin.** The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. on Monday issued a cease-and-desist order on Community Bank of San Joaquin, one of the strongest sanctions against a financial institution. The Stockton-based bank has consented to the charges of unsafe banking leveled by federal regulators and the California Department of Financial Institutions, according to the release by the FDIC. The bank has agreed to retain qualified management at senior levels in the bank. The bank has suffered losses and subsequently is operating with less than satisfactory capital. It was also found to have inadequate loan reserves and operate with a large volume of poor quality loans, according to the FDIC. The bank’s board of directors has been ordered to take a more active role in the management of the bank. The bank will have to provide a management plan in the next month. The bank is further ordered to charge off from its books loans that have been classified as losses and half of the loans classified as “doubtful.”

Source: <http://www.bizjournals.com/sacramento/stories/2008/12/29/daily4.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

9. *December 29, Transportation Security Administration* – (National) **TSA completes background checks on over 1 million truckers.** The Transportation Security

Administration (TSA) announced today the completion of over 1 million fingerprint-based background checks on truck drivers required to carry a Hazardous Material Endorsement (HME) on a commercial driver's license. Since starting operations almost four years ago, the HME Threat Assessment Program has completed a review of 1,015,660 applications and approved more than 1 million. Applicants who initially may not meet the eligibility requirements can take advantage of a robust redress program without losing their HME in the process. Drivers must renew the TSA background assessment at least every five years, although a state may require renewals that are more frequent.

Source: <http://www.tsa.gov/press/releases/2008/1229.shtm>

10. *December 30, Bay City News* – (California) **Regular BART service restored after fire on tracks Monday night.** Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) trains have resumed full service Tuesday morning after a fire between the Walnut Creek and Lafayette stations damaged the tracks and caused delays Monday night. The fire was reported at about 7 p.m. just west of the Walnut Creek station on the Pittsburg/Bay Point-San Francisco International Airport line and temporarily halted all service between the Walnut Creek and Lafayette stations. Contra Costa County and Walnut Creek fire crews put out the fire, but BART officials briefly shut down power on the tracks to allow inspectors to investigate the incident. BART single-tracked trains between the two stations for the last two hours of service Monday night, and crews replaced a 12-foot-long section of the electric third rail that was damaged in the fire after service ended for the night. Regular service started again on both tracks at about 4 a.m. Tuesday. Preliminary reports indicate a spark created by something beneath a train caused the fire. The train that apparently sparked the fire is being repaired.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_11335488?nclink_check=1

11. *December 29, Shipping Digest* – (National) **Ocean lines and railroads to share chassis safety costs.** A regulation adopted by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) will for the first time require railroads and steamship companies owning intermodal container chassis to share safety responsibility with motor carriers. The regulation, a decade in the making and part of the federal highway bill passed in 2005, requires owners of intermodal equipment — many of which are railroads and ocean carriers — to register and file a motor carrier identification report with the FMCSA. They will also be required to establish inspection, repair and maintenance programs, and provide a means to respond to driver and motor carrier reports about intermodal chassis mechanical defects and deficiencies. The agency also adopted inspection requirements for motor carriers and drivers operating intermodal equipment. Improved maintenance should result in fewer chassis being put out-of-service and fewer vehicle breakdowns involving intermodal chassis, the agency said.

Source: <http://www.shippingdigest.com/news/article.asp?ltype=logistics&sid=5773>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

12. *December 30, Tyler Morning Telegraph* – (Texas) **Exploding mailboxes attributed to**

fireworks. Smith County Sheriff's deputies responded to a call on Cedar Hollow Road after a woman reported her mailbox blew up. According to a report, the deputies believe fireworks were the source of the explosion. There also were additional reports of fireworks in mailboxes.

Source:

<http://www.tylerpaper.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081230/NEWS01/812300308>

13. *December 30, Caller-Times* – (Texas) **CCPD find incendiary device in mailbox.**

Corpus Christi police are trying to determine who placed a bottle containing incendiary material in the mail box of a home on the 6700 block of La Bianca Drive Monday night. Corpus Christi police were called at 7:01 p.m. after a resident of the home found a bottle inside her mailbox containing a suspicious white powder. The bomb technicians were able to remove the bottle and test the material inside. They determined the powder to be of an incendiary nature.

Source: <http://www.caller.com/news/2008/dec/30/ccpd-find-incendiary-device-mail-box/>

14. *December 30, WKZO 590 Kalamazoo* – (Michigan) **Suspicious powder found at Nat City office.** Building "B" on the National City Bank campus in Oshtemo Township was evacuated late Monday after a suspicious white powder was found in the Indy Mac office. The white powder fell out of what appeared to be a loan application with no return address. Officials say preliminary testing suggests it is not a dangerous substance, but further testing is being done.

Source: <http://wkzonews.blogspot.com/2008/12/suspicious-powder-found-at-nat-city.html>

15. *December 29, Associated Press* – (Illinois) **Letter to Obama had suspicious powder.**

Two Springfield office buildings were locked down today after a letter addressed to the U.S. President-elect was found to contain a suspicious powder. The Springfield Fire Department division chief said the powder turned out to be harmless. He said the letter was opened about 3 p.m. at the Willard Ice Building, home to the state Department of Revenue, and then transferred to the Department of Aging. He did not know why the letter was moved. Staff at the Department of Aging called 911, and hazmat teams locked down both buildings for several hours. He said the letter's return address was in Chicago, where a man suspected of sending it was taken into custody. Chicago police could not confirm Monday evening that a suspect was in custody.

Source: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2008/12/29/letter-to-obama-had-suspi_n_154099.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture and Food Sector

16. *December 30, USAgNet* – (International) **Mexico to relist about 20 U.S. meat plants.**

Mexico has agreed to resume imports from about 20 of the 30 plants it suspended on December 23, according to a U.S. Agriculture Department (USDA) spokeswoman. The agency received word Monday afternoon that Mexico had accepted the corrective action

plans submitted by 19 or 20 plants. She said USDA was still clarifying the approval list with Mexico. The spokeswoman also said that by early Monday evening USDA had received action plans from five more plants, which it planned to submit to Mexico later that evening. “We expect them to be as well received as the previous ones were.” USDA is working with the remaining five to six delisted plants to facilitate their responses to Mexico’s concerns.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=3003&yr=2008>

17. *December 30, USAgNet* – (National) **USDA cancels mandatory premises registration.**

Just over a month after R-CALF USA sent a formal letter to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service-Veterinary Services (APHIS-VS) demanding that the agency retract Memorandum No. 575.19 issued on September 22, 2008, APHIS-VS officially canceled that particular memo on December 22, 2008. Memorandum 575.19 mandated premises registration under the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) for producers engaged in interstate commerce and who participate in any one of the dozen or more federally regulated disease programs. R-CALF USA told the agency in its Nov. 10, 2008, letter that the memo “constitutes an unlawful, final regulatory action initiated and implemented without public notice or opportunity for comment, as required by the Administrative Procedure Act,” and must be retracted. “This action by USDA confirms what we have been saying all along - that USDA does not have the authority to implement NAIS and it is using underhanded and unlawful methods to coerce independent cattle producers into giving up their rights to their property,” said the chair of R-CALF USA animal identification committee. R-CALF USA advocates that USDA should use and improve existing disease traceback methods including state-sanctioned brand programs that do not require individual producers to register their property under a national premises registration program in order to improve USDA’s disease traceback capabilities.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=3002&yr=2008>

18. *December 30, KIMA 29 Yakima* – (Washington) **Checking cherries for security threats.** The feds recently announced that they are going to screen Washington cherries for possible security threats. The new rule from the Transportation Security Administration focuses on boxes of cherries exported in the cargo holds of passenger planes. Strawberries and asparagus will also be placed under the new rules, apples and pears will not.

Source: <http://www.kimatv.com/news/local/36811554.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

19. *December 30, Associated Press* – (Georgia) **Judge orders mill to stop using Augusta canal water.** A judge has ordered a vacant textile mill to stop using water from the Augusta Canal for electricity. The order, which was effective Monday, comes after the city of Augusta sued South Carolina-based Avondale Mills Inc. for refusal to comply with demands that the company halt hydropower generation at Sibley Mill. The mill is no longer making fabrics, but its turbines produce up to \$1,200 in electricity daily. The

city argued that it needs the water the mill is using to help meet federal mandates for water levels in the nearby Augusta Shoals.

Source:

http://www.ajc.com/metro/content/metro/stories/2008/12/30/augusta_canal_water.html

20. *December 30, WISC 3000 Madison* – (Wisconsin) **Two hospitalized after mix-up causes accidental chlorine gas release.** Two people were hospitalized and the city's hazardous material team responded to the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District on Monday morning after chlorine gas was accidentally released. The assistant chief engineer said that two chemicals were mistakenly mixed together at the Nine Springs Wastewater Treatment Plant, creating the chlorine release. Blooming Grove fire officials said that a tractor-trailer driver was delivering a load of sodium hypochlorite to the location and a worker there made an error, loading the chemical into a holding bin full of ferrous chloride. The chemical reaction created a plume of chlorine gas, WISC-TV reported. Both chemicals are used to treat waste water, but when mixed, they can create the sometimes deadly gas. Exposure to high amounts of chlorine gas can cause external and internal burning, respiratory problems, and, in some severe cases, death. The Blooming Grove assistant fire chief said that the truck driver and plant worker were both exposed to the gas and had some breathing problems. They were decontaminated and transported to a hospital for precautionary measures but are doing fine, WISC-TV reported. The fire chief said the weather helped greatly with preventing the accident from endangering the public and clearing the scene in just a few hours.

Source: <http://www.channel3000.com/news/18374287/detail.html>

21. *December 29, Water Technology Online* – (Maryland) **Utility: Six weeks to find cause of MD main break.** The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) has said it will take another six weeks to determine the cause of the massive December 23 water-main break in this suburb northwest of Washington, D.C., a break that forced helicopter rescues of motorists and has closed a busy traffic artery. As carried by radio station WTOP, the Associated Press reported December 29 that a total of five sections of the 66" main will have to be replaced in the area of the break, where workers have found cracks and significant corrosion in the pipe. "Pieces of the pipe will be analyzed as part of a forensic investigation of the rupture," the release said. "While it is too early to determine a cause, there is considerable corrosion of the pipe where the break occurred." The WSSC said it will keep area residents informed through the media and the utility's Web site. At last report, about 1,800 feet of the pipe had been inspected by engineers.

Source: http://watertechonline.com/news.asp?N_ID=71165

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

22. *December 29, Industry Standard* – (International) **Cell phones that can test for HIV, malaria, and more.** Researchers at UCLA are trying to turn the ubiquitous mobile phone into a device that can run medical tests. An assistant professor of electrical engineering at UCLA has developed a prototype for a lens-free device, small enough to fit into a cell phone that can count cell types in a cell solution. By counting cell types,

the device can determine whether a patient might have HIV, malaria, or other medical conditions. It is not a replacement for a laboratory test that runs blood samples through an actual microscope. While microscopes produce detailed images, the lens-free device produces grainy, pixelated images, an article in Medical News Today explained. The lens-free technique Ozcan is using is called LUCAS, or Lensless Ultra-wide-field Cell monitoring Array. A LUCAS cell phone can use a short wavelength blue light to illuminate a blood sample and capture an image. It then compares the image to a library of images to make a preliminary diagnosis about a medical condition, says the article. Source: <http://www.thestandard.com/news/2008/12/29/cell-phones-test-hiv-malaria-and-more>

23. *December 29, Reuters* – (International) **Researchers unlock secrets of 1918 flu pandemic.** Researchers have found out what made the 1918 flu pandemic so deadly — a group of three genes that lets the virus invade the lungs and cause pneumonia. They mixed samples of the 1918 influenza strain with modern seasonal flu viruses to find the three genes and said their study might help in the development of new flu drugs. The discovery, published in Tuesday's issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, could also point to mutations that might turn ordinary flu into a dangerous pandemic strain. A researcher at the University of Wisconsin and colleagues at the Universities of Kobe and Tokyo in Japan used ferrets, which develop flu in ways very similar to humans. Source: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/healthNews/idUKTRE4BS56420081229>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Government Facilities Sector

24. *December 29, InternetNews.com* – (California) **SF's rogue IT admin facing 4 felonies.** The rogue system administrator for San Francisco who locked officials out of the city's fiber-optic wide area network (WAN) this year, is facing four felony charges in the case. The San Francisco district attorney announced Friday that the 43-year-old will be arraigned in San Francisco Superior Court on January 13. He is accused of tampering with the city and county of San Francisco's network system in such a way as to deny other authorized administrators access to the network, and to set up devices to gain unauthorized access to the system. The DA's office said the defendant is facing four felony charges for causing losses in excess of \$200,000 as a result of the alleged computer network tampering. The fiber-optic WAN the defendant was working with connects all of San Francisco's computers, handles city e-mail, payroll, and other functions and also handles some of the systems of the city's police department. San Francisco's Department of Telecommunications and Information Services, which was rocked by the incident, has spent a considerable amount of money to ensure that the network has been cleared of hidden traps left by the defendant and is now implementing best practices to prevent a recurrence, said its chief administrative officer. Source: <http://www.internetnews.com/bus-news/article.php/3793621/SFs+Rogue+IT+Admin+Facing+4+Felonies.htm>

25. *December 29, Contra Costa Times* – (California) **Suspicious package removed from**

Herger's office. A bomb squad robot retrieved a package from a U.S. Representative's office in Chico, California, Monday after officials X-rayed it and could not identify its contents. A woman working alone in the office said the same man she recalled being involved in a confrontation at the office about a week ago walked in just after noon, said a couple of unintelligible words, then left a package on a counter. Police said the outside of the package had some scribbling on it. The U.S. Representative was in town Monday, but was not at his office. A police lieutenant said the package was transported to a safe location, where it would be further examined, and possibly exploded using a water cannon. Police evacuated the capitol building, which houses the congressman's office and several other businesses. Occupants of surrounding buildings on Independence and Constitution Drives were advised to evacuate as a precaution, and most of them did.

Source: http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_11330818?nclink_check=1

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

26. *December 29, Associated Press* – (Wisconsin) **Wis. officials want more nuclear accident training.** Wisconsin emergency officials want to spend \$800,000 to bolster training for nuclear accidents after responders made at least a half-dozen mistakes during an exercise at the Kewaunee nuclear power plant. Errors during last year's exercise included volunteer field teams who failed to realize they had been exposed to too much radiation, inaccurate radiation readings, and wrong information distributed to the public, a Federal Emergency Management Agency evaluation found. Only one of the mistakes was serious enough to raise questions about whether the state's response was adequate, however, and all the mistakes were corrected in a makeup exercise, according to another FEMA report. Still, the Department of Military Affairs and the Department of Health Services say the errors show they need another \$800,000 over the next two fiscal years for nuclear disaster readiness.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-wi-nucleartraining,0,200271.story>

27. *December 29, Associated Press* – (Washington) **Police fatalities move downward in 2008.** Greater use of bullet-resistant vests and stun guns helped reduce police deaths in 2008 compared with the previous year, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund and Concerns of Police Survivors reported. Law-enforcement officer deaths in the line of duty this year totaled 140, compared with 181 in 2007. Last year's figure represented a spike in police deaths. Gunfire deaths dropped to 41 officers this year, compared with 68 in 2007. The 2008 number represented the lowest total since 1956 — when there were 35 — and was far below the peak of 156 officers killed by gunfire in 1973. More than 70 percent of policemen use bullet-resistant vests compared with fewer than half a decade ago, the chairman of the Memorial Fund said in an interview.

Source: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iCpwmhyl4yzr-OxyWyJ5d1iRVAkWd95CH2T00>

28. *December 27, Philadelphia Inquirer* – (Pennsylvania) **Burco emergency system links all with one.** When a fire burned for days in October in a corner of the Pine Barrens,

causing road closures and evacuations, Burlington County, Pennsylvania, safety officials were able to talk to police officers, firefighters, and state Forest Fire Service members on one radio system. It was a faster-than-before communications method for the county's Emergency Operations Center, which is testing a military system that allows agencies such as the state police, fire departments, highway departments, and the National Weather Service, and even power companies to talk without switching among radio and phone systems. The system, which has been housed below the dispatch center in Westampton since September, could be used during major snowstorms, natural disasters, or a terrorist attack.

Source:

http://www.philly.com/inquirer/health_science/daily/20081227_Burlco_emergency_sysm_links_all_with_one.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information Technology

29. *December 30, Register* – (International) **Google Calendar phishing scam surfaces.**

Fraudsters are using Google's Calendar service as a means to develop a new strain of phishing scam. The ruse appears in the guise of a Google Calendar email notification. Would-be marks are told their accounts will be deleted unless they submit their Google username, password, and date of birth. But rather than coming from Google's "Customer Varifaction" (sic) department, the bogus emails come from fraudsters looking to extract login information. Phishing fraudsters set up a Gmail accounts in order to set up the scam, which is slightly more credible than many because unwary punters are invited to submit information to Google's Web site. In addition, Google inserts the real name of the recipient in email invitations, further boosting their credibility of the fraudulent approach. On the other hand, the fact that scam emails appear to come from an address in the form customerserviceXXXX@gmail.com (where XXXX is a four digit number) exposes the dodgy provenance of the emails.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2008/12/30/google_calendar_phish/

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Communications Sector

30. *December 30, Reliable Plant News Wires* – (Wisconsin) **Standard provides guide for RFID item management.** The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) have revised a standard that addresses RFID for item management. The standard, which revises the 2004 version of

the document, also provides examples of conceptual architectures that often use these air interfaces. Parameter definitions for communications protocols within a common framework for internationally useable frequencies for RFID are included, as well as reference information regarding relevant patents. The standard also lists reference addresses in respect of regulations under which ISO/IEC 18000 operates.

Source: <http://www.reliableplant.com/article.asp?articleid=15129>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities Sector

31. *December 29, WIBW 13 Topeka* – (Kansas) **Two liter bottle causes elementary school scare.** A plastic two liter bottle caused quite a scare at Pleasant Hill Elementary school Monday. According to local authorities, a janitor at the school noticed a classroom window was broken around 10:30 Tuesday morning and called police. Once authorities arrived on scene, they saw that someone had thrown a piece of metal through the window, then tried to lodge a plastic bottle through it. A piece of wire mesh prevented the bottle from going through. Authorities called state fire marshals along with hazmat to the scene to investigate the liquid substance in the bottle. No one was at school because of Christmas break. The Shawnee County Sheriff's Office is investigating the incident.

Source: <http://www.wibw.com/localnews/headlines/36849479.html>

32. *December 29, WRCB 3 Chattanooga* – (Tennessee) **Suspicious package shuts down shopping strip.** Authorities say a suspicious package prompted the evacuation of Apison Crossing in Collegedale. Nearly a dozen businesses had to lock their doors while the Chattanooga Bomb Squad was called out to the scene. Their investigations revealed there was nothing dangerous inside the package, but it was not taken lightly. The bomb squad placed what is called a "disruption device" beside the package and essentially blew it up. The evacuated businesses were allowed to reopen around 7 p.m.

Source: <http://www.wrcbtv.com/Global/story.asp?S=9592930>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

National Monuments & Icons Sector

33. *December 29, Associated Press* – (Wyoming; Idaho; Montana) **Scientists eye swarm of Yellowstone quakes.** Yellowstone National Park was jostled by a host of small earthquakes for a third straight day Monday, and scientists watched closely to see whether the more than 250 tremors were a sign of something bigger to come. Swarms of small earthquakes happen frequently in Yellowstone, but it is very unusual for so many earthquakes to happen over several days, said a professor of geophysics at the University of Utah. The professor directs the Yellowstone Seismic Network, which operates seismic stations around the park. He said the quakes have ranged in strength from barely detectable to one of magnitude 3.8 that happened Saturday. A magnitude 4 quake is capable of producing moderate damage. "This is an active volcanic and tectonic area, and these are the kinds of things we have to pay attention to," the professor said.

“We might be seeing something precursory [that could] develop into a bigger fault or something related to hydrothermal activity. We don’t know. That’s what we’re there to do, to monitor it for public safety.” He pointed out that Yellowstone is the caldera of a volcano that last erupted 70,000 years ago. Yellowstone has had significant earthquakes as well as minor ones in recent decades. In 1959, a magnitude 7.5 quake near Hebgen Lake just west of the park triggered a landslide that killed 28 people.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/28427187/>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Dams Sector

34. *December 30, Belleville News Democrat* – (Illinois) **Levee upgrades move a step closer.** St. Clair County’s role in a \$180 million, federally mandated project to upgrade metro-east flood control levees moved forward on two fronts Monday night. That is when the St. Clair County Board approved a pair of measures aimed at building up local levees and enabling them to comply with tougher federal standards. First, it approved a design agreement between the U.S. Department of the Army and the flood protection districts of St. Clair and Monroe counties to correct problems at the Prairie Du Pont and Fish Lake levees near Dupon. Second, it approved an intergovernmental agreement for the completion of a re-evaluation report for the Prairie DuPont and Fish Lake levees.

Source: <http://www.bnd.com/news/local/story/596158.html>

35. *December 29, Environment News Service* – (New Orleans) **Storm surge barrier going up to protect New Orleans.** Defense of Greater New Orleans’ most vulnerable area from storm surge has begun with the groundbreaking for the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Lake Borgne Surge Barrier Project, the largest design-build civil works project in Corps history. It is unusual for a civil works project to be designed and constructed simultaneously, but the Corps says the expedited process is necessary given the compressed timeframe to achieve 100-year flood protection in 2011. When completed, the \$700 million surge barrier, similar to a floodwall but much larger, will run for nearly 2 miles near the confluence of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet. The 26 foot high barrier will run north-south from a point just east of Michoud Canal on the north bank of the waterway and just south of the existing Bayou Bienvenue flood control structure. The surge barrier is a new feature, authorized by Congress in 2006, the year after hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated the area. It is expected to reduce the risk of storm damage to some of the region’s most vulnerable areas — New Orleans East, metropolitan New Orleans, the 9th Ward, St. Bernard Parish, and Gentilly — to a 1 percent chance in any given year. Advance measures will provide some protection for the area in 2009, although the barrier is not expected to be complete until 2011. The advanced measures include a concrete barrier and a swinging navigation gate on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway that would allow navigation to bypass the construction of the concrete floodwall and at the same time provide protection from surges. Additionally, temporary retaining structures called coffer dams would be built at both the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway bypass swing gate and the location of the Bayou Bienvenue gate to provide risk reduction until the gates are complete. A second level of risk reduction in the short term will be achieved by

installing concrete caps on top of the concrete barrier, which will raise the level of the barrier to 20 feet.

Source: <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/dec2008/2008-12-29-091.asp>

36. *December 29, KWMU 90.7 St. Louis* – (Missouri) **Group sues over St. Peters levee.** A St. Louis-based conservation group has filed another lawsuit over a development in the floodplains in St. Peters. The Great Rivers Habitat Alliance has been battling the construction of the Premier 370 Business Park since it was proposed in 2000. This latest lawsuit asks a court to reverse a change made to the floodplain map by the Federal Emergency Management Agency that allows buildings at the site to buy federal flood insurance. An attorney says the levee being built to protect the project does not provide a mandated level of protection. He says the construction problems make the area more prone to floods, putting more strain on the already cash-strapped federal program. He says the lawsuit is intended to be a pressure tactic. “There is a realization by the businesses that are behind this levee that this levee is not sufficient to protect from the 100-year-flood,” he said.

Source:

http://publicbroadcasting.net/kwmu/news.newsmain?action=article&ARTICLE_ID=1449681§ionID=1

[\[Return to top\]](#)

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